



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

FEB 24 2000

Reply To
Attn Of: ECO-087

D. Fredrick Matt, Chairman
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Mr. Matt:

I am writing to invite your participation in a government-to-government meeting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region 10 to discuss the role of the Clean Water Act in upcoming Columbia River Endangered Species Act decisions. The meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2000, at 1:30 PM, at the Ridpath Hotel in Spokane, Washington. I am extending this invitation to the tribal chairs of all Columbia River tribes who are affected by, and active participants in, activities within the Columbia River Basin. I will be chairing this important meeting, and will have key EPA Region 10 staff attending who are involved in Columbia Basin activities. If you are personally unable to attend the meeting, it would be helpful if another elected official were designated to attend on your behalf. An agenda for the meeting is attached to this letter.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss current discussions underway to integrate the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act in Columbia River decisions involving both the mainstem and tributaries. EPA is currently engaged in four key activities of interest to Columbia River Tribes: first, participation in the 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion to address Clean Water Act and water quality considerations; second, the development of the Columbia River Water Quality Plan, a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Columbia/Snake River mainstem; third, development of the final All-H Paper, Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Plan-A Conceptual Recovery Plan for the Columbia River Basin; and finally, the review of the Lower Snake River Juvenile Migration Feasibility Study Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These efforts will be discussed at the March 9 meeting.

I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss these important issues. Please have your staff contact Doug Cole in EPA's Idaho Operations Office to RSVP to this meeting. Doug can be reached at (208) 378-5764.

Sincerely,


Chuck Clarke
Regional Administrator

Attachment

Columbia River Tribal/EPA Consultation

Relationship of Clean Water Act to Upcoming Endangered Species Act Decisions

Ridpath Hotel
515 W. Sprague Avenue
Spokane, Wa 99201
(509) 838-6285

March 9, 2000
1:30 - 4:30 pm



AGENDA

Introductions

Presentations from Tribal Representatives

Presentation and update from Chuck Clarke, EPA

- Columbia Mainstem TMDL/Water Quality Plan
- Water quality discussions for Biological Opinion
- All-H Paper and Lower Snake DEIS

Next Steps

For more information contact Doug Cole in EPA's Idaho Operations Office at (208) 378-5764.
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